

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SSO-00 /071 W

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P R 171435Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8174

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT ET

SUBJ: WAVE OF ARRESTS IN ADDIS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1876 DTG 131415Z FEB 76

1. LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED IN ADDIS ABABA OVER WEEKEND, BEGINNING ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEB. 13, WITH ARREST OF TEFERRE DEGUEFE, GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK. OTHER ARRESTEES INCLUDE RETIRED GENRALS SHIFERAW TESSEMA AND MERID GIZAW, (BRITS BELIEVE BG MELKE GETAHUN EX-DEPUTY CO THIRD DIV. ALSO TAKEN), EAL PILOT CAPTAIN ADAMU MEDHANE (BROTHER OF MINPUB WORKS & HOUSING); FORNAOSGOJJAM GOVERNOR HAILE MARIAM KEBEDE; DR. SOLOMON BEKURE, HEAD OF EPID; "SEVERAL WEALTHY MERCHANTS; "DEBEBE HABTE YOHANNES, EX-MANAGER OF ADDIS ABABA BANK; AND WIVES OF FORMER MILITARY LEADERS AND ARISTOCRATS GENERALS YILMA SHIBESHI, HAILE BAIKEDAGNE, CONFIDENTIAL

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KEBEDE BEGRE, DERESSA DUBALE, ASSEFA AYENE, ASSEFA

DEMISSIE, ENDALKATCHEW MAKONNEN AND SAMUEL BEYENNE ALL
BUT LAST OF WOMEN WERE EXECUTED NOV. 23, 1974.

2. AT LEAST TWO PERSONS, MAJOR GENERAL KEBEDE WORKU
(FORMER FOURTH DIV. COMMANDER) AND KEGN. MAKONNEN WOSSENU,
DIED RESISTING ARREST. KEGN. MAKONNEN WAS REPORTEDLY
KILLED AND HIS BODY
DRAPED OVER HOOD OF ARMY JEEP AND
DRIVEN THROUGH TOWN. GEN. KEBEDE ALLEGEDLY OPENED FIRE
ON WOULD BE ARRESTERS WHO THEN SURROUNDED HIS HOUSE AND OPENED
FIRE UPON IT WITH .50 CALIBER MACHINE -GUNS. SPEC-
TACLE WAS WITNESSED BY HUNDREDS OF LOCALS WHO GATHERED ON
HILLS SURROUNDING KEBEDE'S HOUSE. RADIO ETHIOPIA REPORTED
THE DEATH OF THESE TWO MEN AND INDICATED THAT GEN.
KEBEDE HAD KILLED HIMSELF TO AVOID BEING ARRESTED.
MEN WERE ACCUSED OF "REACTIONARY ACTIVITIES AND PLOTTING."

3. WAVE OF ARRESTS BEGAN FRIDAY AND WAS STILL CONTINUING
MONDAY, FEB. 16. WE HAVE NOT HEARD AT THIS WRITING IF ARRESTS
CONTINUE, BUT EXPECTATION IS THAT FURTHER ARRESTS WILL
BE MADE. CITY MEANWHILE ABOUNDS WITH RUMORS OF
OTHER ARRESTS WHICH WE AS YET UNABLE TO CONFIRM.

4. REPORT JUST IN ASSERTS THAT DR. SOLOMON BEKURE HAS BEEN
RELEASED.
HUMMEL

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